2: Wilken--175 E-5 (ca. 1880) 1893 OB1 Indonesia OB1
Malagasy FY2
Makassar OG6
Batak OD5
Javanese OE5
Gorontalo OE4
Borneo OC1
Malays AN5

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[140 cont.]
obsolete) (1), and Malagasy.

1. Kern, "Oorkonde van Çaka [Document of Çaka]," Bijdragen, 4th series, Vol. X, p. 83.

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On the other hand, the number of prefixes and suffixes is much larger and there is a great similarity between those used in the various languages. For example, ma or me, closed by a nasal sound, is used [141] in practically all the languages to form active verbs. It is also common to change the m of the prefix ma or me to a p to form substantives with active signification (nomina agentis), likewise pa to form causatives in Makassarese, Buginese, Batak, Dajak, Tagalog, Alfoer of the Minahasa, etc.

The prefixes and suffixes, as was said above, give nuances of meaning to the stem words, often very fine ones. In Tagalog in particular, such an elaborate system has been developed that this language, with regard to the wealth of grammatical forms, stands at the top of the Malayan languages. It is followed by Batak and the Alfoer of the Minahasa, which in this respect are quite similar to Tagalog. After Batak and the Alfoer of the Minahasa, Javanese and Malagasy come next in this respect (1).

J Mal. [193]

1. Van der Tuuk, Outlines of a Grammar of the Malagasy Language, pp. 6-7.

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With this we have finished our discussion of the characteristics of the languages of the Malay Archipelago, at least the grammatical part. Naturally we had to limit ourselves to a few generalities, because it was not our intention to give a comparative survey of the grammatical forms in the various languages but only to outline the peculiar features of the whole language family. Finally, we shall make a few remarks about the nature and character of the Malayan languages in general.